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SUB-NITRATE OF BISMUTH IN CERTAIN GASTRIC DERANGEMENTS

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THE utility of the sub-nitrate of bismuth in certain painful affections of the stomach, has been known to the profession ever since the publication of Odier, of Geneva, who was the first to employ it internally. In presenting the remarks which follow, we are, therefore, not to be understood as claiming any originality, either as to the mode of its action or application. Our sole object is to invite attention to a most valuable remedy which we think is too much neglected. Notwithstanding the length of time which has elapsed since the remedial powers of the sub-nitrate were made known, and the numerous facts which prove its value, some of the best writers on the materia medica have failed to notice it at all. Under these circumstances, we have thought that a few cases illustrating its beneficial effects, would not prove unacceptable to the readers of the Journal.

Bismuth has been employed with benefit in the vomitings of children which are connected with dentition, in the diarrhoeas which attack feeble infants upon slight causes, and in those which follow acute diseases, but are unattended by fever; but these and some other applications of the article we do not intend now to notice, but shall confine our remarks to its effects in some of those nervous derangements of the stomach, which prove so distressing to the patient and harassing to the practitioner. Our observation has satisfied us that such nervous affections of the stomach, and indeed many other nervous diseases, are of more frequent occurrence in malarial regions, than in such as possess a salubrious atmosphere. Nor is this fact at all surprising, when we consider that it is upon the nervous system that malaria exerts its principal morbid influence, as is proved by its agency in the production of intermittent fever—a disease, confessedly of nervous origin. These diseases of the stomach, like most nervous affections, are usually paroxysmal, and whilst relief is most urgently demanded during the sufferings of the paroxysm, the patient, and sometimes the physician, neglects the radical treatment, which can only be carried on during the intermissions.

CASE.—The first case in which we obtained very marked benefit from the employment of the bismuth, was in that of a female, of a spare habit, nervous temperament, and about 40 years of age. In the early part of the summer she had an attack of fever in Florida, from which

she seemed to have entirely recovered. In the month of September she had a succession of violent paroxysms of gastralgia, occurring at irregular intervals, sometimes of one or two weeks. During the three or four earlier attacks she was from home, and the care of the case devolved upon another physician, but we learned that she had taken morphine, chloric ether, and other similar remedies, for the agonizing pain. Between the paroxysms she was directed to use the sulphate of quinine, in doses of several grains each day. This article, however, appeared to have exercised no beneficial influence, for though it had been regularly taken, the disease had renewed its assaults. The first attack in which we saw the patient lasted about three hours: her face was pale, the skin bathed in a cold sweat, the pulse soft, small, and but slightly accelerated, there was an occasional vomiting of a fluid resembling very much the black vomit of yellow fever, and there was pain in the epigastric region of a most distressing character. A large dose of the acetate of morphine was administered, and as the last matters ejected from the stomach were mixed with blood, to the great alarm of the patient, with the morphine was combined four or five grains of the acetate of lead. The relief afforded by the combination was almost instantaneous, so much so that the patient expressed some curiosity to learn what she had taken. At first we were disposed to attribute the usual promptness with which the anodyne acted, to some modification of the condition of the stomach produced by the hemorrhage, but from subsequent trials of the combination of the acetates of morphine and lead, in this as well as in other cases of a similar character, we are satisfied that the acetate of lead was also an efficient agent in the production of the beneficial effects, probably by virtue of its sedative action on the irritated mucous membrane, and by restraining the acrid secretions from the gastric surfaces, thereby preventing the irritation which they must excite on these morbidly sensitive parts. After the paroxysm we have just noticed, our patient continued the use of the quinine for some days, when she was again violently attacked. We should have mentioned before, that these attacks did not seem to depend at all upon the ingestion of food, either in too great quantity or of an indigestible quality. In this instance, a small quantity of rice was the only article which had been taken into the stomach. On this occasion, as before, the combinations of the acetates of lead and morphine gave prompt relief. The patient was then put upon the use of small doses of blue mass in conjunction with quinine, but the paroxysms continued to return. Having employed the bismuth in some other gastric derangements with benefit, and knowing that in the hands of others it had been found useful in cases very similar to the one under treatment, we abandoned the further use of mercury and quinine, and put the patient upon the use of the sub-nitrate in doses of two grains three times a-day, increasing the dose one grain every two days. From the day on which she began the use of this remedy, *she had no return of the disease.* Her general health improved, and she remained free from this complaint up to the time of her death, which occurred about a year subsequent to the cure.

The next case was one very similar, in its general features, to the foregoing. The patient was a female of a corpulent habit, and about 35 years of age. Her health had been good up to the latter part of the summer, at which time she had an attack of intermittent fever, from which, however, she soon recovered, but was soon after attacked with paroxysms of gastralgia, occurring at uncertain intervals, and lasting from one to eight or nine hours. The duration, however, was generally two or three hours. As the earlier paroxysms were short, and as she lived at a considerable distance, she did not apply for medical aid until the attacks had become of very frequent occurrence, and more protracted in their duration. When we first saw her she had been laboring under a very violent paroxysm for some hours. Her skin was cold and bathed in sweat, the pulse feeble and very slightly accelerated, and she vomited frequently considerable quantities of an acrid and nearly colorless fluid. The acetates of morphine and lead were administered, and relief of the pain promptly followed. As there was loss of appetite, with a sallowness of the skin, and a deficiency of bile in the evacuations, she was put upon the use of small doses of blue mass. Her skin soon became clearer, and her appetite and general health improved, nevertheless the paroxysms of gastralgia continued to return, though they were neither so frequent nor so violent. She was then put upon the use of the bismuth, and from that day to the present time *she has had no return of the complaint.*

The third was one of a different character. The subject was Miss ———, of a rather spare habit, and about 30 years of age. For a long period she had been subject to attacks of vomiting, which would continue from two or three hours to as many days. During these attacks the stomach would be thrown into the most violent contraction by the introduction of the smallest quantity of even the blandest fluid. Her skin was cool and moist, and her pulse feeble, though not at all increased in frequency. In her most violent attacks she was affected with spasms. Upon the subsidence of the vomiting, a rash, very much resembling that of scarlatina, generally appeared upon the skin. She had gone through the whole catalogue of anodynes and anti-spasmodics. In one paroxysm an article would give relief, which would fail entirely in the next, but it not unfrequently happened that all failed. The dread of the return of the vomitings embittered the life of this lady, and led her to practise an almost entire abstinence from all the common articles of food, except those of the most digestible kind, and in very small quantities. After a trial of various medicines (quinine among the number), she was put upon the use of the sub-nitrate of bismuth, which was continued, with occasional intermissions, for a considerable length of time. After discontinuing the remedy, she had a slight return of her old complaint, but with this exception she has remained free from the disease to the present time.

We are informed by Dr. Joseph A. Eve, that he has also employed the bismuth in several cases of gastric disease of a painful character, with the most marked benefit. He generally combines with its use, the

employment of small doses of blue mass. The mercury he discontinues in a short time, but increases the doses of the bismuth regularly.

Dr. Dugas also informs us that he has used it frequently, and with almost invariable success, in those annoying sensations of oppression or pain in the epigastric region, so common with ladies of a delicate constitution and sedentary habits. In such cases he prescribes five or six grains to be taken about an hour before each meal, until relief be obtained, and then morning and night for a few days longer.

We have also used the article in several cases of dyspepsia, but have not witnessed any very marked benefit from its employment, except in those instances where pyrosis was present. In such cases we had much reason to be pleased with its effects.

If the mode of action of bismuth were well understood, it is probable that it would be found useful in other diseases than those in which it is now employed, but its *modus operandi* is exceedingly obscure. "If we endeavor to ascertain," says Trousseau, "the action of the sub-nitrate of bismuth, we will be much embarrassed; no intermediate effect between the employment of the medicine, and its curative results, can be perceived. Notwithstanding the attention we have given to it, we have not been able to perceive the least influence on the general functions. When an individual in good health takes the sub-nitrate of bismuth, the only phenomenon to be noticed is constipation; but the nervous functions, the animal heat, the movements of the heart, the urinary and cutaneous secretions, are not influenced in an appreciable manner." We can, therefore, only infer the nature of its action, from the character of the derangements in which it operates beneficially. As these are characterized by an exaltation of the nervous sensibility, the medicine is supposed by Trousseau to possess sedative properties, and to be also somewhat astringent. Merat and De Lens rank it as a sedative, acting directly on the surface to which it is applied, and not as the opiates. Dr. Wood considers it as tonic and anti-spasmodic. We think that it is an error to attribute to it any astringent property. Its effect in constipating the bowels, and in arresting certain diarrhoeas, is evidently due to its property of reducing the nervous sensibility.

Considerable fear is entertained by some, lest poisonous effects should follow the use of bismuth. It is true, that when imperfectly prepared, it may contain a small portion of arsenic in the form of an arseniate of bismuth, and to the presence of this substance must any ill consequences be attributed which may follow ordinary doses, for when the sub-nitrate has been prepared from the pure metal, precipitated and well washed, no danger need be apprehended, though the dose should be carried to half a drachm, or even more. However, in over doses, even the pure sub-nitrate may produce alarming effects, such as great gastric distress, vertigo, drowsiness, &c.—*Southern Medical and Surgical Journal.*



## TWO CASES OF UTERINE HYDATIDS.

By John Evans, M.D., of Attica, Indiana.

UTERINE hydatids seem to have attracted attention as early as the fifth century, as an allusion to them is found in the writings of *Ætius*; since which time numerous authors have successively given a more brief or extended description of the disease. But until Madame Boivin wrote, no full or systematic account was given of it. And since the publication of her memoir on the subject, in 1827, however erroneous some of her opinions may prove to be, authors seem to have contented themselves with her statements, and to have concluded that there is little else to do, than "to verify and strengthen her inferences." Even Prof. Gross, in his great work on Pathological Anatomy, has adopted, without dissent, her opinions.

As we are yet in the dark in reference to the cause, mode of development, and, to a great extent, the nature and proper treatment of the disease, the following cases are reported with a hope that they may add something to the amount of facts already gathered on the subject. They are interesting in their bearing on the subject of the origin of hydatids, as it is a question of much forensic importance.

I am led to believe that uterine hydatids are much more common than the student of Dewees would suppose; as that veteran, in the course of a long life and a more extensive practice in midwifery than has fallen to the lot of any other American, found but a single case of the disease. I have had an account of several cases, falling under the observation of professional acquaintances, in addition to those here reported. And when we remember the amount of obstetrical practice which is attended to by those who are too ignorant, or too careless in their observations to notice a case of the kind, we may consistently conclude that many cases of uterine hydatids exist without being detected at all.

CASE I.—Mrs. B., aged 25 years, of lymphatic temperament, light complexion and light hair; who had two healthy children, and enjoyed tolerable good health until the summer and fall of 1842, when she suffered from repeated attacks of intermittent fever; observed a gradual tumefaction of the abdomen, which led to the conclusion that she was pregnant.

At a period which she supposed to be the fifth or sixth month of gestation, she was seized with labor, and I was called to treat the threatened miscarriage. Before I arrived there had been expelled from the uterus a quantity of semi-transparent gelatinous fluid, which on cooling became more tenacious, until it was of the consistency of the white of an egg, which was completely filled with hydatids of all intermediate sizes, between that of a grain of wheat and a hazel nut, and numbering many hundreds. I preserved, for office inspection, a quart, which was about half the quantity discharged. There were no membranes observed.

The labor speedily subsided, and was attended, at the time, with but little hemorrhage or other unpleasant symptoms, and she was soon able to sit up most of her time, but did not entirely recover, owing to a torpid

condition of the liver, an atonic condition of the stomach, and an occasional attack of uterine hemorrhage, which last was generally arrested by a decoction of ergot, or the use of sugar of lead and Dover's powder.

Cholagogues, alteratives and tonics were used, as they seemed to be indicated, for six months, without any permanent advantage, and the system gradually gave way. The attacks of uterine hemorrhage became more frequent, more profuse and more difficult to control, until anemia and general anasarca were induced. This decline was attended with almost constant pain in the iliac region, and in the regio-pubis, without a corresponding tenderness, no doubt produced by the hydatids in the ovaries and uterus. Early in June, 1843, the flooding became profuse, and she sunk into a deep coma, with insensibility, the breathing became stertorous, and she died.

*Autopsy 20 hours after death.*—Brain presented a healthy appearance, except that, contrary to the apoplectic symptoms of which she died, it partook of the general anemia, a case in illustration of anemic apoplexy. The thoracic and abdominal viscera presented nothing worthy of remark until the ovaries were examined, which were enlarged to the size of a quail's egg, and on being divided were found full of hydatids of various sizes. The fimbriated extremities of the Fallopian tubes were highly injected with blood, and of a bright florid color.

The uterus was slightly enlarged, but presented a normal appearance externally. Within its cavity, near the middle of the posterior wall, there was a regular tumor of the size of a peach-stone, from the centre of which a polypus of gelatinous variety, about the size of a pea, was suspended by a narrow foot-stalk. Upon dividing the tumor it was found to contain a number of small hydatids, with two or three bodies containing all the characteristics of the above described polypus. On making further division of the posterior parietes of the uterus, there were found embedded in the substance, four or five isolated hydatids, which, like those expelled by labor, those found in the ovaries, and those of the tumor, presented all the appearances of the genuine acephalocyst.

This is, perhaps, the first case reported of a polypus being attached to the side of the uterus. The hemorrhage, which was the cause of the death, was not attributable to the hydatids, but to the polypus. The irritation produced by the hydatids may have caused a greater determination to the uterus, "*ubi irritatio ibi afflurit*," and this have increased the bleeding of the polypus.

**CASE II.**—Mrs. B., *æt.* 55 years, of robust constitution, bilious temperament, dark complexion and dark hair; of German extraction and a native of Pennsylvania—had raised a family of healthy children, the youngest of whom was twelve years old, when she observed a gradual tumefaction of the abdomen, which excited suspicion that she had become pregnant in her old age. At the usual age, she had undergone "the change of life," and for a number of years had no sign of the catamenial flux, during which period she had enjoyed good health.

On the 1st of August, 1841, I found her in moderate labor, with slight hemorrhage. Prescribed a free use of acet. plumbi and pulv. Doveri, which arrested both.

August 2d. Labor returned ; and when I arrived, she had been delivered of a mass of hydatids, in a jelly-like substance of about the consistence of the coagulum of blood. I attempted to preserve a quantity as a specimen, but did not succeed. For two days, small quantities of this matter were discharged at intervals ; there was but little flooding, and she speedily recovered.

About a year afterwards she informed me that she had enjoyed good health, and regularly menstruated since the hydatids were discharged.

We find Valesneri, Desormeaux, Mad. Boivin, Prof. Gross, and others, concurring in the opinion that uterine hydatids are always the product of impregnation, are a degeneration of the placenta, ovum or membranes, while Percey saw fit to acquit "a young religieuse" of a charge of incontinence, by declaring, that "vesicular moles are merely hydatids." And the only case Dewees found, was in a widow lady, of good character, whose husband had been dead three years. But here we have one case in which hydatids are found in the texture of the uterus, forming a tumor within its cavity, while a copious crop were formed rapidly and discharged without any sign of ovum or membranes ; and another occurring at an age which is almost beyond the period of susceptibility to impregnation.

These cases are sufficiently strong in opposition to the theory of hydatids of the uterus being the result of impregnation, to justify a jury in leaning to the side of mercy. For although the impregnated ovum is sometimes the seat of hydatids, as Dr. Atlee's case and many others clearly prove, that fact is not quite broad enough to justify the conclusion that they are only found in connection with it.—*Illinois Medical and Surgical Journal*.

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#### MONOPOLY OF ANATOMICAL "MATERIEL."

[THE editor cannot in every instance sympathize with, or always precisely understand, the grievances of correspondents. It is a rule, however, in the management of the Journal, to give each one an opportunity of being heard on all subjects of a general medical interest. Articles, therefore, written in a proper spirit, from all respectable, responsible sources, are freely admitted, even when not in accordance with our own individual views. In the following paper, which is from such a source, the writer expresses himself strongly, and is evidently under the conviction that a growing spirit of monopoly is interfering with the rights of country practitioners, who are as ambitious to keep pace with the progress of science, as the more favored residents of cities. It is needless to say that we shall cheerfully admit any suitable reply intended to show that the charges of "R." are groundless.]

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—This is, to a wonderful extent, the age of puffing. Everything goes by the steam of unbounded, never-hesitating adulation. Cer-

tificates, complimentary letters, valedictory addresses, are all brought to bear upon whatever goes before the public for its approval. In general, these and all other portions of the machinery for the manufacture of popular favor, originate directly or indirectly at home. And this is well enough while it is confined to the sphere of the venders of quack medicines or itinerant lecturers upon mesmerism—men from whom we look for nothing higher, and who act out as elevated views of life as we know them to possess. But when men in high stations of public trust—literary men—chosen to guard the entrance to the field of a noble profession—to preside over the initiatory rites which are to admit worthy aspirants to a knowledge of holy mysteries in whose ministrations they are henceforth to be participants—when such men, I say, condescend to indecent puffing, to accomplish that which alone elevated thought, a pure life and noble action should accomplish; forsaking the commendable rivalry of good deeds, the modest confidence begotten in the true mind by great achievements—the silent though irresistible appeals of just action—to cry up and down the streets with a huckster's voice, to wrangle, abuse, and, dog-in-the-manger-like, monopolize that which, adding nothing really to their own wealth, makes those around them poor indeed (*calling it "honorable effort"*), we may well pause and ask ourselves if the high seats of learning, the altars of religion, the ministrations of an universal Benevolence, must attract attention like Day & Martin's blacking or Brandreth's pills—by puffing.

I have been led to these remarks, Mr. Editor, from having read an address delivered as valedictory in the Medical Department of the University of New York. There have been many, who, looking upon the establishment of this school in the great centre of commerce and trade, where "most do congregate" men from all parts of our own country, from all countries and for all purposes, have imagined that this fact alone, *ceteris paribus*, would give to the University School a prominence before the public. Add to this, the many splendid city and private charities that are an honor to New York, also the weight of character and extensive reputation of some of its instructors, and who would not expect success for such an establishment, when supported only by its own intrinsic merits, and urged onwards only by the efforts of an honorable rivalry. But no one, Mr. Editor, I fancy, anticipated the course that has been pursued by the managers of that school. No one anticipated their insane ambition, or the reckless (perhaps I ought to say "honorable") measures they would take to accomplish their objects. And what is the principal object after which their ambition reaches? Why, after coolly telling us that his associates were selected from among all the medical men of the country as those that stood pre-eminent and remarkably calculated to draw the eyes of the world after them, and having waited a moment to hold up, quite modestly, his own features to be bathed in this reflective praise—in manner saying, if these are such wonderful men, what must the unnamed one be to be associated with them—Prof. Bedford gravely announces the end for which himself and his associates are laboring—"The creation of a National Medical School which shall meet

*the wants of the profession and confer honor on the country.*" To create a *national* medical school! To make New York a Paris in medicine! Unquestionably there are many reasons why medical schools situated in our large cities should absorb the great majority of aspirants after medical privileges and honors. But it would puzzle the acutest yankee of them all to imagine one why a school at New York should swallow up those at Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Boston, &c., perhaps as "*national*" and certainly an honor to America. As if literature and science invariably herded with the largest sellers of iron and molasses. As if there was any necessary connection between the groves of Academus and a successful shaving house in Wall street—or money in the stocks would make a learned and instructive obstetrician. But when the professors of the University School can make New York to America, in science and art, what Paris is to France—the *one* place of the whole country—I might say, without exaggeration, of the world—when they can gather there all that is beautiful in art, all that is valuable in science—when they can so tame the hitherto uncontrollable energies of a free people, among whom intelligence is extensively diffused, that they will permit a king to be put over them in politics—then may they hope to play the autocrat in medicine.

But I wish to call the attention of your readers to one fact (one, I suppose, Prof. Bedford would call a legitimate effort). It is this, that the professors of the University School are determined to rise on the ruins of other schools. It has been, I suppose, a well-known fact, that nearly if not quite all the "*materiel*" for the study of practical anatomy in New England, has been supplied from the more southern cities, a large part of the supply having come from New York. This arrangement, while it has facilitated the attainment of knowledge, has quieted the minds of people in the country in regard to dissection. Every one that has made an effort to procure "*materiel*" for dissection, the past winter—those, at least, who have hitherto depended on New York—is aware how great has been the difficulty. But does every one know to what origin to attribute this difficulty? Prof. Bedford, in speaking of dissections at the University School, says—"I allude to the extraordinary facilities for dissection. The materiel is abundant and cheap, and you will be somewhat surprised when I assure you that New York has formerly supplied almost all the medical schools north of the Potomac—but so enormous was this traffic in dead bodies, and so gross the abuses connected with it, that the municipal authorities have become vigilant and put an end to the disreputable trade." This sounds well—noble. It is refreshing to hear one, who is conversant with the soul-hardening mysteries of daily city practice, descant with an overflow of all the beautiful sympathies of our nature, upon the "abuse" of this "enormous traffic in dead bodies," with all the freshness of a milkmaid upon a country farm. 'Tis pleasant to know that he pays tithes even of mint, anise and cummin, albeit he does forget the weightier matters of the law. But I must confess that it is a little amusing, if not a trifle absurd, to hear a professor in one of our largest schools of medicine boast of the abundance of the materiel

for dissection in the market for students *at that school*, and the cheapness of the price at which it is to be bought by students at that school, in one line; and in the next, as regards the supply of country physicians and country schools, cry out against the "*abuses*" of this "*enormous traffic in dead bodies.*"

What mighty difference can there be  
'Twixt tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee!

And what a pious gratitude does he express in the *discriminating* vigilance of the municipal authorities! To be sure the prevention of any sale for the "*materiel*" in the country, gluts the city market, making it "*abundant and cheap*" at the University School; but that cannot be of any interest to the generous and unselfish men who are laboring to establish an *American School of Medicine*.

But whence originated this vigilance of the municipal authorities? How came it to be so discreet in its attention, that provided nothing left the city boundaries, the carcasses of men may almost be hawked about the streets as pedlar's wares, and the great abundance boastfully held out as an attraction to students? I think I can give a hint, not necessary to your city readers, but throwing light upon the matter to those physicians in the country who have been endeavoring to elevate the standard of medical education in the country among young aspirants for medical honors, whose pecuniary means forbid them to seek the advantages of the city schools. Is it truly *aut Cesar, aut nihil*? And here let me ask Professor Bedford, which would be most consonant with republican institutions, that we should have a few mammoth schools located in the large cities, or schools of correct principles, inculcated by able and efficient men, within reach of all. Would the man strike down Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Brown, Geneva, Amherst, Bowdoin, and a host of other collegiate institutions, and force the aspirant for knowledge to the New York University? Ay, that he would, could the professors buy them up, or hire the New York Municipal Authorities to extend their benign influences over this large and benighted region. But *whence* arose the vigilance of the municipal authorities with regard to this "*disreputable trade*"—disreputable only, it would seem, where the "*materiel*" passes into hands showing some evidence of rusticity? It originated in the efforts—"honorable," "*legitimate*"—of these same University Professors. It will be remembered by more than one man within the four years that this school has been in operation, that the professors have boasted that they would put a stop to the supply of material for dissection in the country, and destroy the country schools. As Prof. Pattison once said to a friend of mine, who, although he has never crowded his name, by the assistance of an American printer, upon the title-page of any foreign book, "*marring its fair proportions,*" is nevertheless a popular lecturer in two schools of medicine—"We are determined to break up your country schools, and oblige all who wish to dissect to come to the city to do it." Another friend (if he will grant me the privilege of so calling him), a devoted student of the deeper philosophy of his profession, writing from the city of New York, says—"We owe this (the diffi-

culty of which I have been speaking) to the wisdom of the University (new) Medical School, the professors of which, justly enough distrusting, &c., have conceived the idea of compelling every student and physician who wishes to dissect, to come to the city." From these facts, your readers in the country will see to whom they owe it that the *municipal authorities have become watchful*. And watchful for what? to prevent the traffic in dead bodies? Oh no! but to enable the University School to monopolize the trade. To prevent the desecration of the city burial grounds? By no means—only to enable the University professors to reap all the benefit from the "disreputable traffic." For by Prof. Bedford's own statement, the home market is glutted.

The effort—so "*honorable*," so "*legitimate*"—is, then—simply and divested of all humbug—in the first place to prevent the schools of medicine in the country obtaining a supply for anatomical demonstration, and in that way break them down, building up the glorious superstructure of a "*National Medical School*" on their ruins. A truly noble, philanthropic and American idea! And, secondly, to oblige physicians in the country, who wish to keep up a knowledge of their profession and make advances in it, to resort every year or two to the Medical School of the University of New York—leaving their business for months, and incurring what to many would be an injurious expense, to get an advantage which they could have each one in his own office, till the magnificent conception arose in the minds of the self-sacrificing and benevolent professors of the New York University, "*To create a National Medical School which shall meet the wants of the profession and confer honor on the country.*"

I have already written at too great length, but cannot close without asking physicians in New England whether they can consistently do anything, directly or indirectly, to uphold an institution, the managers of which would dry up every other fountain of medical knowledge, and compel all to resort to them. I would appeal, too, to medical students, whether, for the sake of one or two or three "*cheap*" subjects, while pursuing their professional studies, they will assist in sustaining such an iniquitous project—one ruinous of everything valuable in the diffusion of correct medical principles, and beneficial only to the pockets of the philanthropic men that originated it, and the evil of which they will feel equally with others, when from "our pupils" they come to be "our peers."

R.

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#### ARTIFICIAL PETRIFICATION—EXPERIMENTS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—Having attempted to petrify animal substances, and with partial success, I have been induced to make the process known by which they were changed from their semi-solid into a solid mineral state, by a substitution of particles, hoping that some person, possessing greater chemical facilities, may be enabled to perfect the process, and restore to the world a novel and useful art.



My first attempt was made without the aid of apparatus, and my only guide in conducting the experiment was the clue furnished by an examination of the chemical constituents of a piece of earth said to possess the power of petrifying; which had evidently entering into its composition the sulphate of iron and the nitrate of potash, and a portion of lime, the exact character of which I could not determine. Acting in accordance with the indications presented, a piece of pork was introduced into a saturated solution of the nitrate of potash, at the temperature of 212 degrees. After remaining in it for ten or fifteen minutes, it was removed and thrown into a saturated solution of the chloride of lime, and from that into a solution of copperas, where it remained for several days, and when removed it was exposed to the heat of the sun. As evaporation progressed, a gradual hardening became apparent; parts of the substance, perfectly dry, when cut caused a sensation similar to that produced by the cutting of stone, and the fracture presented many of the peculiarities of stone, although the fibrous character of the meat was present.

Some months after the above experiment was made, I observed, in the report of Mr. Ellsworth, a process by which wood was converted into a substance possessing some of the constituent properties of iron and stone; and it occurred to me that the apparatus made use of, and the course adopted, might produce, with other aids, the same effect upon animal substances, as they were traversed in a similar manner with pores, although the natural fluids differed in chemical attributes. In accordance with the views presented, I procured an air-pump, and placed beneath the receiver a piece of meat which had been subjected to the combined influence of a weak solution of caustic potash, and lime, and after exhausting the air in the receiver, a solution of the sulphate of iron was injected into the substance of the meat from a syringe which had been previously introduced into the orifice at the top of the receiver, and connected with the meat by a silver tube which was introduced into its substance, and made fast by a cord passing around the portion enclosing the tube. There was but a partial infiltration from the injection, from the imperfect exhaustion of the air around it; but from an exposure of the meat for several days to the action of the sun and air it became hard and free from smell, and possessed many of the attributes of stone, although the surface denoted the presence of iron, its color being of a rusty black.

Yours, respectfully,

South Reading, Mass., July 3d, 1845.

E. R. SMILIE.

NOTE.—Dr. Smilie has recently established himself at Northampton, Mass., where, or through the medium of this Journal, those engaged in similar experiments, of such great interest to science, can address him.—Ed.

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#### DENTISTRY.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

In almost every department of life talent vies with talent in the discovery and improvement of those things which tend to ameliorate the condition

of man. Men of first-rate talents, improved by education, are indefatigable in their laudable endeavors to develop new truths in geology, astronomy and mechanics. Yet they have neglected too much the anatomy and physiology of their own systems. We have, however, been highly gratified to see, of late, praiseworthy efforts in operation to enlighten the public on those laws which govern the constitution of man, and the importance of obeying them. The benefit of this knowledge is already beginning to be felt by the better-informed portion of the community. My object in this article is principally to call the attention of the profession to the subject of the teeth—a subject which has been too much neglected. What, indeed, can be the reason that more attention has not been paid by physicians to this branch of surgery, or that it should be viewed as of second or third rate importance, if regarded at all? It is true that most physicians in the country are armed with a turnkey for the relief of toothache, and when a raging tooth can be borne no longer, it is twisted out without ceremony, as though it was a matter that, of all others, least concerned the physician. I know there are some who are in possession of the improved instruments for extracting, and there are a few who attempt to preserve the teeth by filling, and supply artificial ones when the natural teeth are gone. Yet operations on the teeth are regarded by many of the profession as unworthy of belonging to the practice of medicine and surgery. I see no good reason for this state of things. When we reflect that the extreme suffering caused by toothache alone is greater, probably, than that from all other aches and pains combined, we should not hesitate to prepare ourselves to act in this department. I will venture to assert that a majority of the profession are not prepared with instruments to perform capital operations in surgery; yet no school allows a member to graduate unless he is qualified in this respect. No objection is made, either, if a physician spends half his time in cultivating his farm; and I must confess I cannot see how it would derange his professional business more if he should devote a portion of his time to keeping the teeth of his patrons in repair. If the profession was educated for this department and would act in it, they would do that business well, which is now done by a set of travelling impostors, who, instead of doing good, almost invariably spoil nature's work. It is very important for every physician to know the effects on the animal economy, of diseased teeth, and the loss of them. But this is not well understood. If a man has lost his teeth entirely, he cannot enjoy so good health as though his teeth were perfect, nor can he expect to live so long. The food being imperfectly masticated, there is an additional amount of labor imposed on the stomach, and this superabundance of work will occasion derangement which must react on the whole system. The stomach, like the main-spring of a watch, when impaired, affects the whole machinery. Many people at the present period think much of having a pure atmosphere to live in, and are at great pains to secure this; when at the same time they carry about with them half a dozen rotten teeth, contaminating every particle of atmosphere they inhale. When we consider the additional consequences of neglecting the teeth, viz., the pain of extracting, their loss in eating,

speaking and giving expression to the face, we have a host of evils, any one of which should call into action all the talent in the profession.

The views I have advanced on this subject will better apply to country practitioners, than to those in cities and large towns. I will say, finally, that I consider it creditable to the Editor of this Journal that he has manifested so much interest in the progress of dental science.

*No. 9 Winter Street, Boston.*

JOHN CLOUGH.

#### HARE-LIP IN THE NEGRO.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I notice in your last No. an extract from the Western Lancet, in which the inquiry is made, "Is the negro subject to hare-lip?" with a statement from the editor of that Journal, that, as far as his observation extends, although the deformity forces itself upon us very frequently, it is exclusively confined to the whites," and asks if there is a philosophical reason for the difference.

The question of philosophy can be answered by the fact that the difference does not exist. The African race is not exempt from that unfortunate deformity. I have myself witnessed more than one instance of its existence in the black, and recollect of having seen, a few years since, in the town of Paris, Oxford County, Me., a negro by the name of Hector Fuller, who had the misfortune of double hare-lip. I have the impression that instances of this kind are not very rare.—Since writing the above, a member of my family informs me, that when passing from Boston to Portland, six or eight years ago, she met, on the deck of the steamer, a black man very badly deformed by double hare-lip, who, to use her own expression, was the most horrid-looking creature she had ever seen.

*Wrentham, July 5, 1845.*

I am, Sir, your ob't serv't,

W. W. COMSTOCK.

#### THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JULY 16, 1845.

*Sickness and Death of Gen. Jackson.*—In the Christian Observer has been published a letter written to Mr. Blair, by J. N. Esselman, M.D., the family physician of Gen. Jackson, from which an extract is inserted below. It contains most of the facts which a physician would be solicitous to know regarding the immediate cause of the death of a man who belongs to the history of his country. Other interesting points are referred to in the letter, which we are obliged to omit, illustrative of the character and feelings of Gen. Jackson in the solemn hour of death. One year ago the present month, we had the satisfaction of paying our respects

to him at the Hermitage. The courtesy with which he received strangers, and the kindness and hospitality which he showed those who visited him, were not lacking on the occasion of our visit. In the course of an agreeable interview, the General remarked that he suffered severely from hemorrhage of the lungs, of late, and that his only relief was from copious venesections. Such frequent depletions had greatly reduced him, so that he could not stand upon his feet, but was moved from one seat to another by assistants. He was exceedingly emaciated, yet he spoke with his accustomed energy on subjects which he considered of national importance, and by no means, while reasoning in his own peculiar way, appeared so near the grave as he assured us he considered himself to be.—The following is the quotation above referred to.

"I have been frequently in his family, as physician, for several years past; and on my return home from the east, in April, I visited him in company with his particular friend, Gen. Robert Armstrong. We found him very feeble, laboring under a dropsical affection—particularly that form of dropsy known as *anasarca*. He informed me he had suffered much bodily pain, in consequence of the great effusion or swollen condition of his extremities. The cough, which had harassed him so much for years, had nearly or quite left him; but his difficulty of breathing appeared to be increased.

"The remedies appeared at first to afford him considerable relief, as it respected his dropsical condition; but his system had been so undermined by previous disease, that medicine seemed to have lost its impression or effect. The dropsical effusion returned, and I was requested to visit him on the 1st of this instant, and found him suffering excessively from the distension occasioned by the accumulation of water. I immediately tapped him, and drew off a very considerable quantity of water, which afforded him immediate relief. He took an anodyne at night, and informed me, the next morning, that he had passed a better night than he had done for the last six months.

"Drs. Robertson and Waters were in consultation the next morning. We agreed on the prescription, which was administered, and which gave him temporary relief. This was all we could expect to obtain, considering his situation. I was sent for again on Saturday, the 7th inst. The messenger informed me that the General was much worse. I hastened to the Hermitage, and found him very much exhausted. He had great difficulty in respiration, in consequence of an accumulation of water in his chest. He requested I should remain with him, as he was well aware that his dissolution was near at hand. He took an anodyne and expectorant, and appeared to pass the first part of the night tolerably comfortable. He had not been able to lie down for the last six months. He had to be propped up in his bed at night, and in his arm chair during the day.

"On Sunday morning, the 8th inst. (the day on which he died), on entering his room, I found him sitting in his arm chair, with his two faithful servants, George and Dick, by his side, who had just removed him from his bed. I immediately perceived that the hand of death was upon him. I informed his son that he could survive but a few hours; and he immediately despatched a servant for Major William B. Lewis, the General's devoted friend. Mr. Jackson informed me that it was the General's request that, in case he grew worse, or was thought to be near his death,

Major Lewis should be sent for, as he wished him to be near him in his last moments. He was instantly removed to his bed; but before he could be placed there, he had swooned away.

"His family and servants, believing him to be dead, were very much alarmed, and manifested the most intense grief; however, in a few seconds, re-action took place, and he became conscious. \* \* \* \* \*

"Major Lewis arrived about 2 o'clock. The General appeared to know him when he spoke to him. As I before stated, the General had to be propped up in his bed, and Major Lewis supported his head until he breathed his last, which was precisely at six o'clock."

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*Archæological Science in America.*—At Richmond, Virginia, is published the *Southern Literary Messenger*, a literary periodical of decided merit, which should have a more general circulation in New England, as it is constantly diffusing that sort of knowledge which is always coveted at the North. But without enlarging upon the claims of the work, it is our particular object, in this note, to direct the attention of our own profession to an article in the No. for July, entitled "*A Sketch of the Progress of Archæological Science in America*, by the editor," B. B. Miner, Esq. That old mooted question precedes the paper—"Who reads an American book?" Without any extraordinary effort, it is there shown that the learned of Europe are almost wholly indebted to the United States for all they know of the progress of ethnography. Its exciting developments, which have already determined points of great historical importance, address themselves to the intelligence of the age in all countries, and however unwilling a foreigner may be to consult an author of the new world, those who would have the truth and nothing but the truth in this captivating department of human knowledge, must look to the United States. We are reluctantly compelled to condense our views on this topic, to a mere paragraph, with a disposition to extend them over half a dozen pages. Yet within these confined limits, we cannot refrain from holding up the name of Dr. Morton, of Philadelphia, to those who feel an honest pride in a knowledge of the fact, that he has given eclat to our country by his researches in ethnographical science, which will hereafter put a stop to the taunting inquiry already quoted.

Dr. Pickering, the naturalist, who accompanied the exploring expedition, has recently returned from Egypt, Arabia, Zanzibar and Bombay, laden with discoveries. He explored the natural history of the Valley of the Nile, says Mr. Miner, and a rich entertainment from him may soon be anticipated from that source. But we cannot enlarge further than to say that the enterprise of two physicians, natives of the United States, has done and is now doing more for the science of ethnography, than has been achieved by all the savans of the old world, in the last hundred years.

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*Milk in Cities.*—That the health of children, and probably of adults, too, is very much influenced by the quality of the milk they are habitually using, is generally admitted. It happens, too frequently, that some families not only have milk of a poor quality, but it is actually made worse by being adulterated with bad water. Impositions of the grossest kind have been practised by milkmen on the inhabitants of cities, in Europe, from

remote antiquity, and some of their tricks are pretty well understood in some places in this hemisphere. We may congratulate ourselves, in Boston, upon being free from many frauds of that class of dealers, owing to the competition in the trade, favored by a rapid and extensive intercourse with a rich range of agricultural towns in the neighborhood. Notwithstanding the facilities for collecting good milk, there are many little meannesses practised by the city distributors, which should not be tamely overlooked when detected. A common mode of cheating, is to dilute it with water. It would be economical for hotels, large boarding establishments and public institutions, where many gallons are daily taken, to be provided with a lactometer—an instrument that would instantly expose the least dishonesty in the quality. A vigilance of that kind would keep incipient milk rogues in check.

But it is all important that the milk used in families of children, should be from cows that are free from disease, well fed, and, if possible, kept in upland pastures in the grazing season. Low, marshy grounds are unfavorable to the best condition of milch cows. The milk, therefore, which comes to the city on the line of the Worcester and Fitchburg railroads, twenty and thirty miles in the interior, we esteem of a superior quality, and it is probable that the lactometer would show it to be so. Milk from cows fed on distillery swill, the garbage of taverns, &c., is always inferior; and besides, the animals are as far from the standard of robust health, as the sickly tenant of a city lane is from the fully developed youth of a country village.

We were led to these reflections in consequence of being informed that the Shirley Shakers are about sending large quantities of milk from their dairies, the richest in Massachusetts, to this city every morning. They are an honest people—and those who are so fortunate as to get milk from them before it falls into second hands, will be sure of having it of the very first quality. The Westboro' company, by the integrity and promptness of their agents, have been the means of supplying our citizens with large quantities of milk at a reasonable price, which is really *white*, and therefore quite an object with those who have been served so long with blue milk, that they may possibly have imagined that hue to be the natural color.

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*Dr. Pillsbury's Address.*—On the 21st of May, a public address was delivered at Lowell, Mass., before the members of the Middlesex District Medical Society, by J. D. Pillsbury, M.D., which appears to have received the unqualified approbation of the press in that city, and we presume also of the faculty. The spirited manner in which he handled homoeopathy and Thomsonism, will hereafter make him a marked man to those who advocate either of those systems. We cordially approve of all that he says of the founder of the latter. If ever ignorance, vulgarity and presumption were united in the character of one individual, the inventor of the cayenne and lobelia practice was the man. To the historical part of the discourse, it is hardly necessary to advert, since it was received with eclat by a mixed audience, capable of appreciating its real value. Dr. Pillsbury is an able advocate for those principles that should influence the profession—tending, as they do, to individual respectability, and conscientiousness in the discharge of the high trust that devolves on the educated medical practitioner.

*Acclimating Fever of Liberia.*—Since the appointment of Dr. J. W. Lugenbeel to the office of Colonial Physician, in Liberia, important facts have been gathered, which are quite new to the profession, and of such value to the interests of African Colonization, that they should be extensively circulated.

"In regard to the influences of the climate on the physical system," says Dr. L. in the July No. of the *African Repository*, "I may remark that my experience and observations in reference to myself and many others, have confirmed me in the opinion that the climaterial influences are less deleterious to human health than is generally the case in the United States. Every person who emigrates from a temperate climate to this country, must experience some acclimating process, which may or may not be attended with much fever, according to circumstances—to constitutional predisposition, previous habits of life, &c. In some cases the acclimating fever is violent and fatal in its effects; but in the large majority of cases, it is mild in its form and yields readily to appropriate treatment. Very few persons die during the first attack of fever; the principal danger is in consequence of relapses, which, in nine cases in twenty, are the results of personal imprudence, and not the effects of the continued injurious influences of the climate. I find that those persons who have resided in the colony one year or more, and who are able to live comfortably, generally enjoy very good health. The principal cases of sickness are among those who are in indigent circumstances, and in whom poverty and indolence are often associated."

*Columbian Mesmeric College.*—A more glaring imposition has not come to light of late, than one that peeps out through the St. Louis (Missouri) papers. One Dodds is there, lecturing, who is styled the *President of the Columbian Mesmeric College and Medical Institution*, established in Boston, with three professors! No such institution ever existed here; and if one should appear, the trustees, if wise, would be careful to select a president who could speak his mother tongue grammatically. If the people of St. Louis can swallow such stuff as the president of this imaginary mesmeric college deals in, when not preaching, the druggists will have no more occasion for the sale of ipecac. Really, this is a phenomenon—that animal magnetism, though the silliest system of gullibility extant, should have fallen so low, as to be served up to the Hards and Softs on the Upper Mississippi, by such a man.

*Eruptive Diseases of Children.*—A recent publication makes mention of the successful effects in these diseases of the saline water of the Caledonia Springs, Canada West, which should not pass unnoticed. This is the season, of all others, to visit the romantic scenery of that celebrated spot—and if the water is not always efficacious, the journey would be so, to persons of every age, at this particular part of the year.

*Treatment of Chronic Eczema.*—Mr. B. Phillips states, in the *London Medical Gazette*, March, 1845, that he has treated with signal success many cases of chronic eczema, by the following simple plan:—

He purges the patient with calomel gr. v., jalap gr. xv., and two days afterwards repeats the purgative. He has the affected part bandaged, and



the bandages wet with warm water, and covered with oil silk, so as to constitute a constant tepid bath. He also gives the liquor arsenicalis, minim v. twice a-day.—*Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sciences.*

**Medical Miscellany.**—Hydropathy is thought to be waning in Germany. Only 600 patients were at Græffenburg last year, whereas there were 1500 in the three preceding seasons.—The circular of the College of Dental Surgery, at Baltimore, is published. Lectures commence the first Monday in November, under circumstances of great encouragement.—A second No. of the Buffalo Medical Journal has appeared.—Mr. Daniel B. Smith is president of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.—Dr. Joseph Carson has become the responsible editor of that excellent periodical, the Journal of Pharmacy.—A deaf and dumb man, 25 years of age, residing at Garrettsburgh, Ky., has been taught to speak, by Mr. Robert T. Anderson.—In the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom, the illegitimate births are to the legitimate, as 1 to 27; in Genoa, 1 to 11; in Naples, 1 to 8.—Professor Nægle considers the mean duration of labor to be between 6 and 12 hours. In Collins's practice, of 15,850 labors, 15,084 were completed within 12 hours; and of these, 10,987 from 1 to 4 hours.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**—A case of Gastrotomy, voted to be published in this Journal by the Medical Society of Tennessee, Dr. Tabor on the Effects of Tobacco, and Dr. Taylor on the Use of a Compound of Iodine and Morphia, have been received.

**MARRIED.**—Cyrus F. Fiske, M.D., of Salem, Mass., to Miss I. H. Boyd.—At New Orleans, Dr. S. P. Moore, Assist. Surgeon U. S. A., to Miss M. A. Brown.

**DIED.**—At Kensington, N. H., Dr. Henry Tuck, of Barnstable, Mass., 37.—In New York, Samuel Ackery, M.D.—At Carthage, Illinois, Dr. Marshall, shot in a scuffle, by a sheriff.—At Paris, Gilbert Breschet, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Paris, after a long and painful illness, 53.

Number of deaths in Boston, for the week ending July, 12, 49.—Males, 20; Females, 22. Stillborn, 2. Of consumption, 8—accidental, 2—erysipelas, 1—infantile, 5—croup, 2—convulsions, 4—cramp in the stomach, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 1—scarlet fever, 2—lung fever, 1—dropsy, 3—disease of the heart, 1—canker, 1—teething, 1—typhus fever, 3—palsy, 1—cancer, 1—dropsy on the brain, 1—old age, 1—delirium tremens, 1—disease of the bowels, 1—scrofula, 1.  
Under 5 years, 21—between 5 and 20 years, 2—between 20 and 60 years, 14—over 60 years, 4.

REGISTER OF THE WEATHER,

Kept at the State Lunatic Hospital, Worcester, Mass. Lat. 42° 15' 49". Elevation 483 ft.

June.	Therm.	Barometer.	Wind.	June.	Therm.	Barometer.	Wind.
1	from 47 to 76	from 29.54 to 29.61	S W	16	from 61 to 81	from 29.38 to 29.43	S W
2	53 76	29.52 29.53	W	17	58 64	29.23 29.47	W
3	68 84	29.52 29.54	S W	18	48 70	29.53 29.59	W
4	59 86	29.44 29.50	S W	19	55 75	29.61 29.61	S W
5	59 79	29.30 29.37	W	20	53 78	29.48 29.61	S W
6	57 68	29.35 29.48	W	21	60 74	29.30 29.37	N W
7	52 74	29.46 29.53	W	22	51 70	29.31 29.35	N W
8	61 86	29.36 29.49	W	23	56 70	29.20 29.26	S W
9	73 91	29.31 29.39	W	24	63 83	29.15 29.20	S W
10	66 86	29.46 29.50	W	25	60 71	29.18 29.25	N W
11	67 69	29.22 29.31	N W	26	53 75	29.30 29.33	W
12	56 72	29.31 29.33	S W	27	57 72	29.32 29.38	W
13	64 81	29.11 29.24	N W	28	52 76	29.25 29.34	S W
14	60 69	29.22 29.26	N W	29	58 69	29.20 29.24	S
15	51 72	29.49 29.56	N W	30	51 59	29.37 29.40	N E

The month has been pleasant, generally rather cool, with some extremely warm days. It has been favorable to the husbandman, and the growth of gardens and the crops has been favorable. The crop of grass is said to be light, but with the frequent showers recently sent, may yet be good. Range of Thermometer, from 47 to 92.—Barometer, from 29.11 to 29.61. Rain, 3.14 inches.

*Castleton Medical College.*—The exercises usual at the close of the spring session of this College, occurred on the 18th of June. The valedictory address to the class of graduates was delivered by Prof. Goldsmith, and was well suited to inform the young practitioner of the dangers and difficulties he may have to encounter, and to instruct him in the duties of his new position.

The degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred upon the following gentlemen:—T. L. Andrews, Conn.; A. H. Atwood, N. H.; Charles Brackett, N. Y.; A. S. Brundage, Pa.; A. B. Carpenter, Vt.; O. D. Cass, N. Y.; Allen Corkins, N. Y.; R. L. Clark, N. Y.; L. D. Cowdin, Miss.; J. H. Dayton, N. Y.; G. L. Dearborn, N. H.; L. Dickerman, Vt.; H. Douglass, Vt.; M. L. Harter, Ohio; A. Hobby, N. Y.; E. F. Hutchinson, N. Y.; N. H. Knowles, Vt.; W. C. Lewis, Eng.; A. J. Marshall, N. Y.; D. C. Maybin, N. H.; P. H. Northrop, N. Y.; A. S. Payne, Va.; A. S. Petkin, Vt.; S. Pope, N. Y.; D. A. Raymond, Vt.; C. H. Seaman, N. Y.; M. W. Sherman, Vt.; S. Smith, N. Y.; F. P. Sprague, Vt.; J. T. Turner, N. Y.; O. A. Tubbs, N. Y.; S. R. S. Ufford, N. Y.; H. Wason, Mass.; P. P. Werner, N. Y.; A. Woodburn, N. Y.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on Dr. M. A. Barrus, N. Y.; J. M. Berry, M.D., N. H.; Dr. C. Houghton, Vt.; Dr. L. Little, Ohio; Prof. J. McLean, M.D., Mich.; Dr. J. C. Peters, N. Y.; Dr. J. Rice, Mass.; Dr. J. M. Wieting, N. Y.

The Hon. Horace Eaton, M.D., addressed the Society of Alumni, by appointment. The production of Dr. Eaton, both in matter and manner, was of a high order, and received the highest approbation from the members, as well as the profession generally, and citizens assembled on the occasion. The leading purpose was to show, that medicine is based on fixed and unvarying laws of the human organization and economy, thus commending it as a certain and rational science, to the view of an intelligent community. The address will be published, by a unanimous vote of the Society.

That the unremitting exertions of the Trustees and Faculty of the College to increase the means of instruction and the advantages of pupils, is not overlooked by the medical public, is manifest by increasing patronage—the number of students attending the session now closed having been 136, a larger class than was ever before in attendance at this institution. The course of lectures on surgery has been especially commended by a unanimous vote of the class.

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*Remarkable Case of Delivery during Sleep.*—M. Schultze was called on the 25th of May, 1844, to attend the wife of an artisan, who had reached the full term of her fourth pregnancy. He found her lying in a state of profound somnolency, so that it was quite impossible to rouse her, either by violently shaking her or by applying to her nostrils the most powerful stimulants, such as ammonia and ether.

On the third day of this unnatural sleep, the woman, without awaking, was delivered of a healthy, living and well-formed male child. On visiting the female on the following day, M. Schultze found that she had not long spontaneously awakened from her sleep; and as she had no recollection of her delivery, she was somewhat astonished to find that the child had been born without her having been aware of it.—*Annales D'Hygiene.*